BENGALURU, TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 23 | Humidity 40% Mostly Sunny Sensex 79,408 | Nifty 24,125 | Gold 97,213 | Silver 95,591 | Dollar 85.38 | Euro 97.11 | GBP 113.24

While BBMP says e-commerce waste discarded into stormwater drains has caused blockages, BWSSB clean-up reveals another culprit — carelessly disposed of sanitary pads and wet wipes

THE CHOKE IS REALLY ON US

100 kg sanitary napkins recovered from drains in 2 areas last week

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The arrival of rain is often accompanied by anxiety for many Bengalureans — not because of the downpour itself, but due to the recurring threat of their homes being inundated by rainwater or sewage. While citizens point fingers at Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for the poor maintenance of stormwater drains and sewage lines, the civic agencies offer a different narrative.

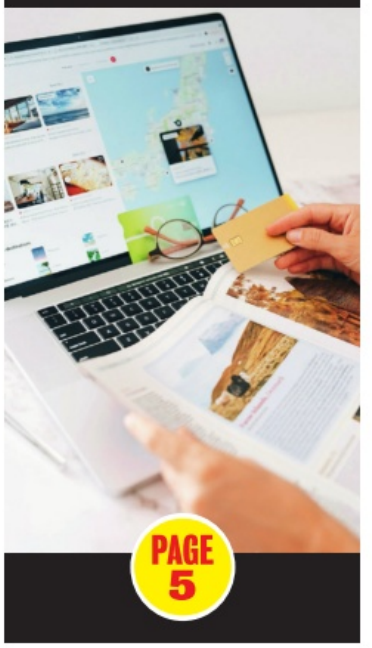
According to BBMP, the primary culprits are packaging materials—mostly from e-commerce deliveries—recklessly discarded into stormwater drains, causing blockages and resulting in localised flooding. Meanwhile, BWSSB attributes the sewage overflow to the irresponsible disposal of sanitary pads and wet wipes in toilets, which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

This was the scene of a road in Jayanagar after Sunday's rain

TICKET TRICK

Centre has to issue alert after several unsuspecting pilgrims shell out big bucks for trips that never materialised



PAGE 5

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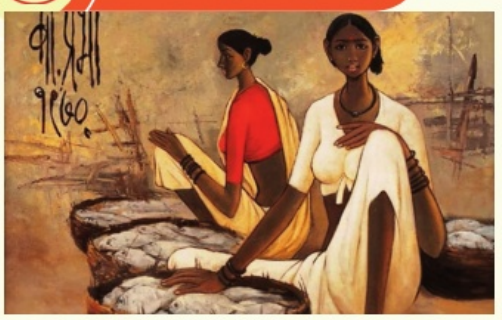
- Ph.D

KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

THINGS TO DO



01 Art auction

Indigo Art Auctions presents a special online sale featuring iconic works by legends like MF Husain, Jamini Roy, B Prabha, and more. Discover a stunning mix of modern, folk, and contemporary Indian art in this one-of-a-kind event.
Where: Online at Indigo Art Auctions
When: April 24, 2025 – 7.00 pm

02 Flamingo frenzy

Tulika Books invites you to the launch of Go Go Flamingo! with illustrator Priya Kuriyan. This quirky tale turns an environmental mess into a dazzling visual story with flamingos caught in human waste.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar
When: April 26, 2025 – 2.30 pm; Age: 6+

03 Story circle

Join a curated literary meetup led by Bhumika Anand from Bangalore Writers Workshop as The BWW Short Story Community dives into "Fire Rain" by Banu Mushtaq. Perfect for writers and readers looking to explore craft, context, and community.
Where: Atta Galatta Indiranagar
When: April 26, 2025 – 3:30 pm
Age: 18+

04 Candyland fun

Nexus Vega City Mall is set to host the magical Candy Land Summer Carnival starting 26th April 2025. This family-friendly event features a whimsical candy-filled world with exciting activities for kids and families.
Where: Nexus Vega City Mall
When: 26th April 2025 onwards

05 Musical fonds

Indian Music Experience Museum launches its new Learning Centre with a special intergenerational art workshop that brings elders and children together through painting, music, and storytelling.
Where: Galaxy Club, Malleshwaram
When: April 26 or 27, 2025 – 12.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Life is a squeeze for all pedestrians on this road

Sadahalli Gate is busy junction but authorities forgot to make footpaths here

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Sadahalli, Bhovipalya, and Navaratna Agrahara, including hundreds of students, have been facing a lot of problems due to narrow roads. Sadahalli Gate off International Airport Road is a busy junction but roads have no footpaths thus compelling pedestrians to walk on the road. There are many schools and colleges around Sadahalli Gate.

Locals are urging the Doddajala Gram Panchayat to widen the road to reduce congestion and ensure safe passage for pedestrians. With no dedicated footpaths, people are forced to walk alongside fast-moving vehicles, making the stretch particularly risky. Residents say road accidents have become all too common in the area.

"I was walking on the road on March 17 when a car hit me from behind. I was admitted to the hospital for treatment and discharged the next day. Walking on the road near Sadahalli Gate is not safe for pedestrians," said Mithun S, a first-year engineering student from a nearby private college.

Highlighting the plight of students who use this route daily, Harini K, another engineering student, said, "Four people have been injured in the past few months. The road is dangerous for pedestrians. It doesn't have a footpath. I urge the authorities to widen the road and construct footpaths on both sides."

Echoing similar concerns, Jeevan R, also an engineering student, pointed out that the narrow road is incapable of accommodating both vehicles and pedestrians. "The road badly needs widening to prevent further accidents," he said.

Ranapratap Reddy, Principal of MS Engineering College, said he personally rushed the student injured in the March 17 incident to a nearby hospital. "The police visited the spot. It would greatly benefit pedestrians if the authorities take swift action to widen the road and build proper footpaths," he said.

Chikkajala Traffic Sub-Inspector Puttaswamy Y confirmed that a case was registered in connection with the incident and an investigation is underway. "I will depute a constable to Sadahalli Gate to regulate traffic," he said.

Sadahalli Gate falls under the jurisdiction of the Doddajala Gram Panchayat. Former Panchayat president Mahesh N.K. acknowledged the issue and said steps are being taken. "Yes, the road is narrow. The panchayat has a proposal to widen it. We will soon issue notices to landowners to acquire the necessary land for the project," he said.

Narrow roads of Sadahalli Gate where pedestrians are pushed onto the traffic; inset: a student who was hit by a car

"I consider walking on the road near Sadahalli Gate is not safe for pedestrians
–Mithun S Injured student

Adult children entitled to compensation

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The Karnataka High Court has established that adult children who are legal representatives of a deceased person are eligible for compensation under loss of consortium, encompassing both filial and parental compensation. Loss of consortium allows spouses or parents to seek compensation for the loss of companionship, affection, and marital or familial support.

In a recent case, Justice CM Joshi awarded Rs 1,56,000 (Rs 52,000 each) as compensation under loss of consortium to three petitioners—the wife and two sons of Subhash, a Kalaburagi resident. Subhash lost his life on April 7, 2019, in a vehicle collision while returning from a temple visit with his grandson.

The Kalaburagi motor accident claims tribunal had earlier granted a total compensation of Rs 10.3 lakh on March 18, 2021. While it upheld the wife Mallamma's claim under loss of dependency, it rejected the sons' claims, citing their adult and independent status. The family, however, challenged the tribunal's order, arguing that the compensation was insufficient given that Subhash's monthly earnings were Rs 15,000, and the tribunal had inadequately assessed their case.

Justice Joshi, upon reviewing the records, referenced the N Jayasree vs Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd case, where the Supreme Court ruled that all legal representatives affected by a motor vehicle accident death deserve compensation. The Seema Rani vs Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd case extended dependency status to married daughters under the Motor Vehicles Act.

The judge also noted that the tribunal's deduction of 50% for personal expenses was incorrect. He stated that a 54-year-old man with a wife and two children would contribute more to his family than himself, meaning a deduction of one-third was more appropriate. As a result, the compensation was increased to Rs 14.8 lakh. **–BMB**

Transfers: Advocates to protest

The Advocates' Association, Bengaluru (AAB), will stage a protest near the High Court premises on Tuesday to contest the Supreme Court collegium's decision to transfer four judges from the High Court of Karnataka to other high courts.

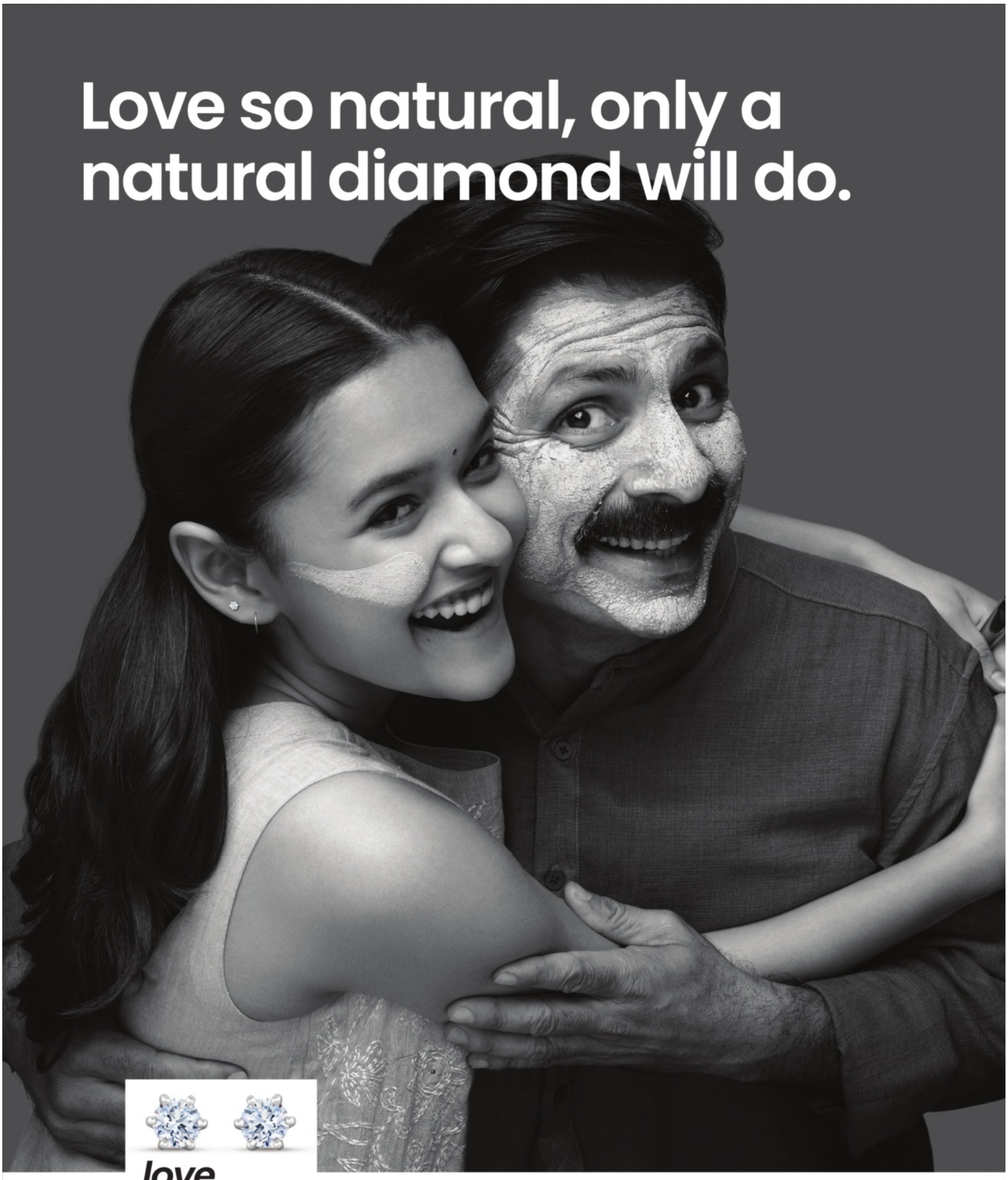
AAB president Vivek Subba Reddy said on Monday that the association members, including senior advocates, unanimously opposed the proposed transfers and urged the collegium to reconsider its decision.

The Supreme Court collegium, in its meetings on April 15 and 19, recommended the transfer of seven judges, including Justices Krishna S Dixit, K Natarajan, NS Sanjay Gowda, and Hemant Chandangoudar from the Karnataka High Court. The stated objective was to "infuse inclusivity and diversity at the level of High Courts and to strengthen the quality of administration of justice."

Meanwhile, the collegium also recommended transferring Justice Perugu Sree Sudha from Telangana and Justice Kumbhajadala Manmadha Rao from Andhra Pradesh to the Karnataka High Court.

AAB plans to submit representations to key authorities seeking cancellation of the transfers. **–BMB**

Love so natural, only a natural diamond will do.



love, from dad
COLLECTION
FOR SECOND PIERCING

FIND A JEWELLER

DE BEERS
A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Deputations drag on as animals suffer

Staff shortages and prolonged deputations leave farmers and animals without critical care as officials remain posted in Bengaluru beyond their legal term, worsening the crisis

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A significant shortage of veterinary professionals is crippling animal healthcare services across rural Karnataka, leaving farmers and animal welfare advocates deeply concerned. This crisis is compounded by the prolonged deputation of officials from the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) department to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), where many have overstayed the legally permitted tenure.

The Supreme Court of India has clearly defined deputation in service law as a temporary assignment of an employee outside their parent department or cadre. Once the deputation period ends, the official must return to their original department, unless promoted under recruitment rules.

However, it has been revealed that 21 out of 49 officials in BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department have overstayed their deputation, including eight assistant directors—violating the rules and worsening the rural staff crisis.

Rural Karnataka reels under staff shortages

In districts like Kodagu and Kushalnagar, the shortage of veterinary professionals is severe. Kodagu has filled only 76 out of 306 sanctioned positions, with just 18 of 50 veterinary doctor posts occupied—a vacancy rate of 75%. In Kushalnagar taluk, over 50 villages have been without a veterinarian for more than six years, leaving livestock without timely medical care.

Rural Karnataka struggles with veterinary care as staff shortages and extended deputations disrupt essential animal health services

BangaloreMirror
Only 1,500 of sanctioned 3,000 veterinary doctor posts in Karnataka are filled and there have been no new recruitments even as many are being shifted out to other departments
DEEP IN VET DEBT
Staff shortage has persisted for over a decade, say animal activists

BM had reported about the shortage of veterinary doctors on April 20

> **"Urban departments are overstaffed while rural Karnataka suffers: animals go untreated and farmers are left helpless."**
> – Arun Prasad, animal rights advocate

The situation is equally alarming in Dakshina Kannada, where only 28 veterinary doctors are working, with 25 positions vacant. The department struggles to manage disease outbreaks like lumpy skin disease while also handling routine operations.

Activists seek return of overstayed officials

Animal welfare activists are now urging authorities to address the issue. Arun Prasad, an animal rights advocate, has formally requested BBMP Special Commissioner Dr Avinash Menon Rajendran to enforce the Karnataka Civil Service Rules (KCSR) and transfer back AHVS officials who have overstayed the permissible five-year deputation period.

Citing Sub-rule (3) of Rule 50 and clause (b) of Rule 419 of the KCSR, Prasad pointed out that deputations should "not ordinarily extend beyond 5 years except under special orders of Government." He also referred to a 2018 Karnataka High Court judgment warning against extended deputations, stating that such practices can lead to officials losing touch with their parent departments.

An RTI reply confirmed that 21 of 49 officials in BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department have exceeded their deputation term. Activists argue this overstay results in lethargy, poor accountability, and neglect of core responsibilities.

Call for equitable distribution

"It's heartbreaking to bring an injured animal to a government hospital and find there's no vet, sometimes for day Rural Karnataka Faces Crisis Due to Veterinary Shortage s. We're doing our best, but without doctors, we're helpless," said a volunteer from a local animal rescue group.

Activists are calling for a review of BBMP's animal husbandry staffing and the transfer of officials who have overstayed their deputation. They argue this imbalance harms rural areas that rely on veterinary care. Without timly action, both animal welfare and farmers' livelihoods will continue to suffer. They stress the need for better distribution of veterinary professionals, ensuring rural areas aren't neglected while urban centres remain overstaffed.

Domlur Burial Ground transformed by volunteer efforts

With active involvement from local welfare associations, residents call on BBMP to ensure regular maintenance of the sacred space

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Domlur Burial Ground has made occasional appearances in the news. It gained attention five years ago when pourakarmikas were given the opportunity to have coffee with Lakshminarayan C R, the then corporator of the Domlur ward. Although pourakarmikas used to clean the burial ground occasionally, it had not been maintained for several months and had started to resemble a garbage dump.

The condition of Domlur Burial Ground after volunteers and pourakarmikas cleaned it on Saturday

The burial ground was in the news again on Saturday when around 15 volunteers from the Domlur Layout Residents Welfare Association and the Cambridge Layout Residents Welfare Association, along with pourakarmikas, came together to clean the premises. The cleaning drive began at 10 am and concluded at 2 pm During the effort, they managed to remove four to five truckloads of dry leaves from the burial ground.

"I am very happy to have been part of the team. It gave me immense satisfaction. I went home feeling content, and I was able to sleep soundly on Saturday night because I considered cleaning the burial ground a noble deed," said Srinivasa Murthy P., president of the Cambridge Layout Residents Welfare Association.

Expressing her happiness at being able to help clean the burial ground, Geetha Vasudev, a resident of Domlur Layout, said the area now looks neat and clean after the removal of dry leaves and garbage. "The burial ground was full of dry leaves and waste. I am very happy to be part of the team. I consider cleaning the burial ground a tribute to the departed souls. I urge BBMP authorities to maintain its cleanliness, as it is the final resting place," said Geetha Vasudev.

Shivakumar V, General Secretary of the Domlur Layout Residents Welfare Association, stressed the need to maintain cleanliness at the burial ground. He said he's in touch with The Ugly Indian to help beautify the space. "I thank all the volunteers and pourakarmikas who joined the drive. BBMP must ensure regular upkeep. People attending final rites shouldn't leave with regret after visiting a place that looks like a dump," he said.

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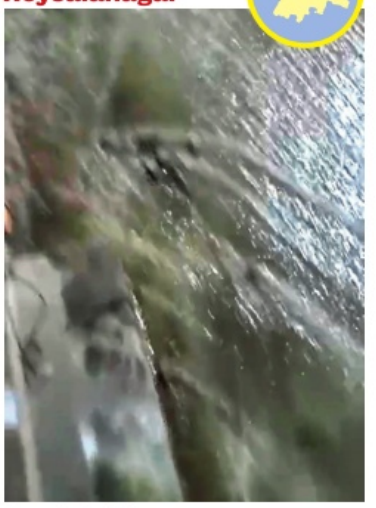
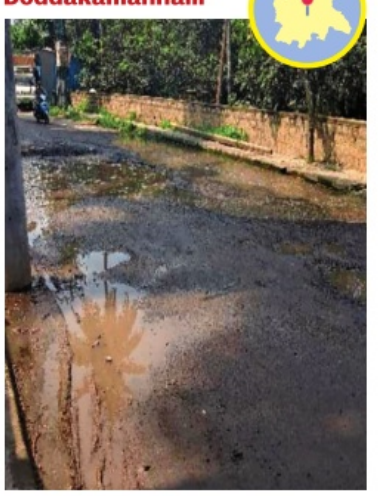
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Water wastage
Hoysalanagar



A newly laid Cauvery water pipeline in Hoysalanagar is leaking at 8th Main Road. Water is gushing out, and residents urge prompt action to prevent further loss.

Road neglect
Doddakamanhalli



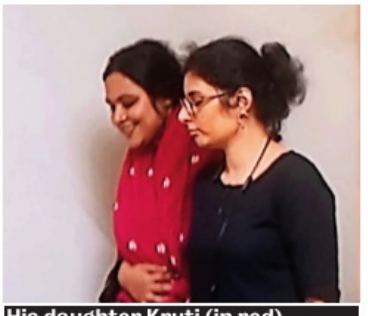
The road near a school at the junction of Gottigere Lake Road and Bannerghatta Road in Doddakamanhalli is in poor condition. Authorities are urged to take prompt action for the safety of students and commuters.

Waste zone
Cambridge Road

Garbage piled up on the footpath along Cambridge Road in Ulsoor, opposite ICICI Bank, is forcing pedestrians to walk on the busy road.

Former DGP Om Prakash murder: Wife arrested, CCB takes over probe

Pallavi being taken from the HSR Layout Police Station to be produced before the Judge, on Monday



His daughter Kruti (in red) spotted at HSR Layout Police Station with a friend

In a shocking development, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has taken over the investigation into the murder of former Director General of Police (DGP) Om Prakash, who was found stabbed to death at his residence in HSR Layout on Sunday.

According to police sources, the former DGP was stabbed nearly 10 times in the abdomen, stomach, and hands. He was rushed to the hospital but was declared 'brought dead'. Investigators believe he likely suffered for some time before succumbing to his injuries.

Mortal remains kept for public display at MCHS Club at HSR Layout

Following the incident, Om Prakash's wife Pallavi and daughter were taken in for questioning. On further inquiry, Pallavi was arrested by the Investigating Officer (IO) and is currently under judicial custody. Officials confirmed that she allegedly confessed to the crime during a phone call to a friend (the wife of an IPS officer) reportedly stating that she had "killed the monster".

Both the wife and daughter were present in the house at the time of the incident, raising further questions about the circumstances leading to the murder. **BMB**

Ticket trick: Conmen take pilgrims on unholy ride

With spike in cases of tourism scams, cyber crime centre issues alert asking travellers to be careful while booking tickets

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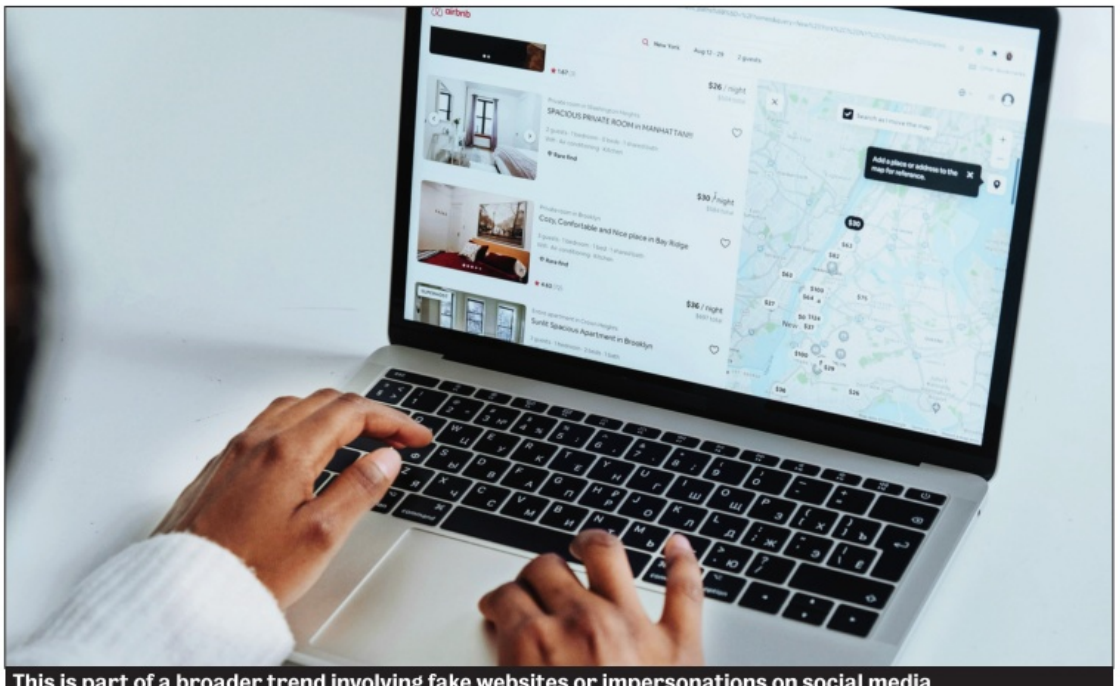


This is part of a broader trend involving fake websites or impersonations on social media

With a spike in cons involving booking of tickets for a getaway or pilgrimage, the Centre had to issue a nationwide alert, asking public to be on the lookout. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, issued the alert on Friday, warning pilgrims and tourists against a surge in online booking scams that are duping unsuspecting travellers out of their money and peace of mind.

The I4C flagged these incidents as part of a broader trend involving fake websites and those impersonating social media profiles. These frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts, and paid advertisements on search engines like Google.

The caution comes after a spate of complaints from individuals who fell prey to fake travel portals and bogus pilgrimage booking sites. Lured by irresistible offers for VIP darshan, discounted hotel stays near temples, and low-cost tour packages, victims discover too late that they've been conned — often after reaching their destination with no reservation in sight.

From fake helicopter bookings for Kedarnath to fraudulent holiday packages advertised on social media, unsuspecting devotees and travellers are being duped out of thousands, even lakhs of rupees. One such case surfaced in Melkanda, where a resident lost Rs 64,000 in a cleverly orchestrated scam.

According to the complaint, the victim received a call on January 18 at 10.30 am from a person claiming to represent Rakesh Subramanya Tours, who offered a spiritual travel package to Prayagraj. Lured by the seemingly legitimate offer and reassured by smooth talk and professionalism, the man transferred money through UPI in multiple installments. But once the payment was done, the tour company mysteriously vanished. Calls went unanswered. The victim quickly reported the fraud to the national cyber crime helpline (1930) and filed a formal complaint at Jnanabharathi police station.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. In a far more staggering case, the Govindarajanagar police arrested 35-year-old Raghavendra Rao for allegedly conning over 100 individuals in a fake Kumbh Mela tour scam last month. Rao ran a travel agency, 'Panchajanya Tours and Travels', and advertised a 14-day religious tour across Ayodhya, Kashi, Prayagraj, and Varanasi for Rs 49,000 per person via Facebook.

To build trust, Rao initially took a small group on a genuine trip. Encouraged by glowing testimonials, dozens more signed up for future tours. But Rao had other plans. Instead of booking travel, he allegedly invested the collected Rs 70 lakh into a betting app, hoping for windfall returns. He then disappeared, leaving over 100 hopeful pilgrims high and dry. Police arrested him after complaints poured in, and 21 victims have officially filed cases so far.

The Ministry of Home Affairs officials have urged public to exercise extreme caution while making online bookings, especially for religious tours and pilgrimages. Citizens are advised to always verify the authenticity of websites before making any payments, and to be wary of clicking on "sponsored" or unfamiliar links that appear on platforms like Google, Facebook, or WhatsApp.

> **"Bookings should only be made through official government portals or well-established travel agencies** –Alert issued by Centre

Officials urge that bookings should only be made through official government portals or well-established travel agencies. In case of any suspicious activity or fraud, victims are encouraged to report it immediately via the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal at www.cybercrime.gov.in or by calling the helpline number 1930. For instance, helicopter bookings for Kedarnath should only be done through the official portal https://www.heliyatra.irctc.co.in, while accommodations at Somnath can be safely booked via the official website https://somnath.org.

IN BRIEF

Thieves sneak away phone at mall

A high-end smartphone was stolen at a food counter in a mall on Saturday around 2.22 pm. The incident was captured on CCTV.

The victim, Amit Agnihotri, was collecting his food order while speaking to his wife when his Samsung S25 Ultra was stolen from his front pocket. The footage shows a man using a red polythene bag to discreetly cover Amit's pocket while swiftly lifting the phone. A second person is seen assisting the theft by distracting or shielding the act.

Agnihotri said, "The suspects were loitering around the food court area. As I was collecting my order and my hands were occupied, they seized the moment and stole my phone from my front pocket. By the time we managed to access the CCTV footage, the suspects had already walked out of the premises. It appeared as though they were familiar with the area—possibly even residing nearby." **BMB**

Violent clash between DRDO officer, biker

A road rage incident involving a DRDO Wing Commander and a bike rider turned violent near Gopalan Mall in CV Raman Nagar on Monday morning, with both individuals seen assaulting each other in CCTV footage that has since surfaced.

The incident occurred when Wing Commander Shiladitya Bose was being driven by his wife to a bus stop en route to the airport. As per initial accounts, the confrontation began after a biker allegedly stopped abruptly beside their car and began hurling abuses. Bose, seated in the front passenger seat, attempted to engage the biker in conversation but was reportedly attacked with a bike key and punched in the face.

However, CCTV footage from the scene presents a more complex picture, both the biker and Bose are seen assaulting each other. The footage contradicts parts of Bose's narrative shared in a video that has since been circulated online, in which he claims to be the sole victim of the attack. **BMB**

It's on full speed right now.
SO HOT! All day, all night, all week! No escape!
On a different note, look at the cherry blossom trees outside in full bloom!
Oi, can you increase the fan speed?
Also hey,
Eat your ice cream, it's melting-
Forget that,
I've melted.

For more of the artist's work, scan this QR code &

To give BM a follow, scan this QR code

IT giants announce 70,000 jobs

Leading IT giants like Infosys, TCS, and Wipro have announced plans to recruit over 70,000 employees, signalling a strong job growth in the sector. Experts predict that the IT industry will generate approximately 4 to 4.5 lakh new jobs, with a 7-10% growth forecast in IT recruitment in the first half of the current financial year.

Despite global economic uncertainties, companies like TCS, Infosys, and Wipro are continuing to hire in large numbers, indicating robust growth in the IT sector. Industry experts attribute this positive trend to rising investments in digital transformation and global technology initiatives. With a strong focus on areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, and automation, hiring trends are seeing an upward shift.

Engineering, data science, cloud architecture, and system analysis roles are particularly in demand, prompting professionals to upgrade their technical skill sets. Fresh graduates are also set to benefit, as firms are increasingly opening up entry-level positions. TCS alone plans to hire 42,000 fresher's in FY 2025-26, while Infosys aims to bring in 20,000.

Bengaluru continues to lead in IT job creation, accounting for nearly 35% of the country's tech workforce. Other cities including Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai are also witnessing a rise in hiring activity, solidifying India's position as a global IT hub. **–BMB**

Fire NOC stalls licences

Private hospitals across Karnataka are facing delays in obtaining new licenses and renewing existing ones due to the state government's mandatory requirement for a fire safety No Objection Certificate (NOC). As per the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act, it is now compulsory for all private healthcare institutions to implement fire safety measures and obtain clearance from the Fire and Emergency Services Department to secure or renew their licenses.

Earlier, only hospitals taller than 21 metres needed a fire safety NOC. However, the new directive extends this requirement to smaller hospitals and clinics as well. Without this clearance, licenses cannot be issued or renewed, causing a slowdown in hospital registrations and potentially affecting the delivery of essential healthcare services.

Dr A Suriraju, Secretary of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), voiced concern, stating that around 3,000 small and medium-sized hospitals are already experiencing delays, a number that could rise to 15,000 in the coming months if the issue is not addressed.

The IMA has called on the government to issue clear, standardised guidelines for the NOC process. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Nandi hills ropeway clears key forest hurdle

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In a major development for Karnataka's tourism infrastructure, the Forest Department has granted conditional approval for the long-pending ropeway project at Nandi Hills marking it as the first of its kind in the state. The proposal has now been forwarded to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for final clearance, which is expected soon. If all goes as planned, construction could begin as early as May.

Ropeway, set to stretch 2.93 km.

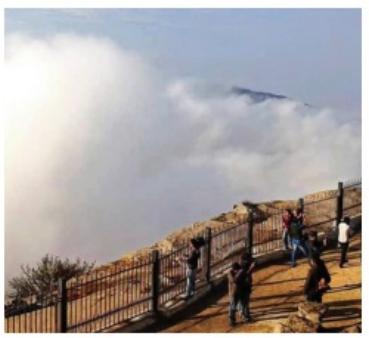
The foundation stone was laid in 2023. Chief among them was the requirement for clearance from the State Forest Department, which has now been resolved. Once completed, the project is expected to significantly reduce vehicular congestion and curb air pollution in the Nandi Hills area.

Project to start soon, finish in two years

Construction is likely to commence next month, with officials aiming to complete the project within two years. An additional ground breaking ceremony is also on the cards. Estimated at 93.40 crore, the project has undergone several revisions to reduce environmental impact.

Major design changes to minimise environmental impact

One of the most notable changes is the reduction in the number of support pillars from 17–18 to just 10. Only one eucalyptus tree and part of a tamarind tree will be felled for the construction. The Forest Department granted its nod after reviewing the revised plan and imposing strict conditions.


Eco-friendly ropeway to ease Nandi hills tourist congestion

Strict environmental conditions imposed

Among the key restrictions: the use of JCBs, blasting, and any road construction activities that might harm the environment have been banned. All construction will take place under the supervision of forest officials and environmental experts. Forest officials confirmed that the construction will be limited to around 86 guntas of land, ensuring minimal intrusion into the forest area.

Tourism department ready to proceed

In response to the Forest Department's conditions, the Tourism Department has committed to using prefabricated pillars and scrapping the use of heavy machinery. The ropeway's hilltop terminal will occupy about 50 guntas at the hilltop, and care will be taken to prevent any harm to the local ecosystem.

Parking concerns being addressed

The proposed ropeway terminal at the hilltop is set to be currently managed by the Horticulture Department, which also houses an existing parking area.

To avoid any space conflict, the current parking lot will be relocated to the base of the hill. Visitors will be ferried via shuttle buses from there to the ropeway station.

The ropeway project has been a long-standing demand of both tourists and locals. With crucial approvals finally secured, work on this much-anticipated addition to Nandi Hills is set to take off soon.

HEALTH TIP: Alcohol may lead to tumour formation by damaging DNA, causing mutations that disrupt normal cell division and growth

Wetting hair before entering the pool saturates it and prevents further absorption of chlorine

BangaloreMirror | 7
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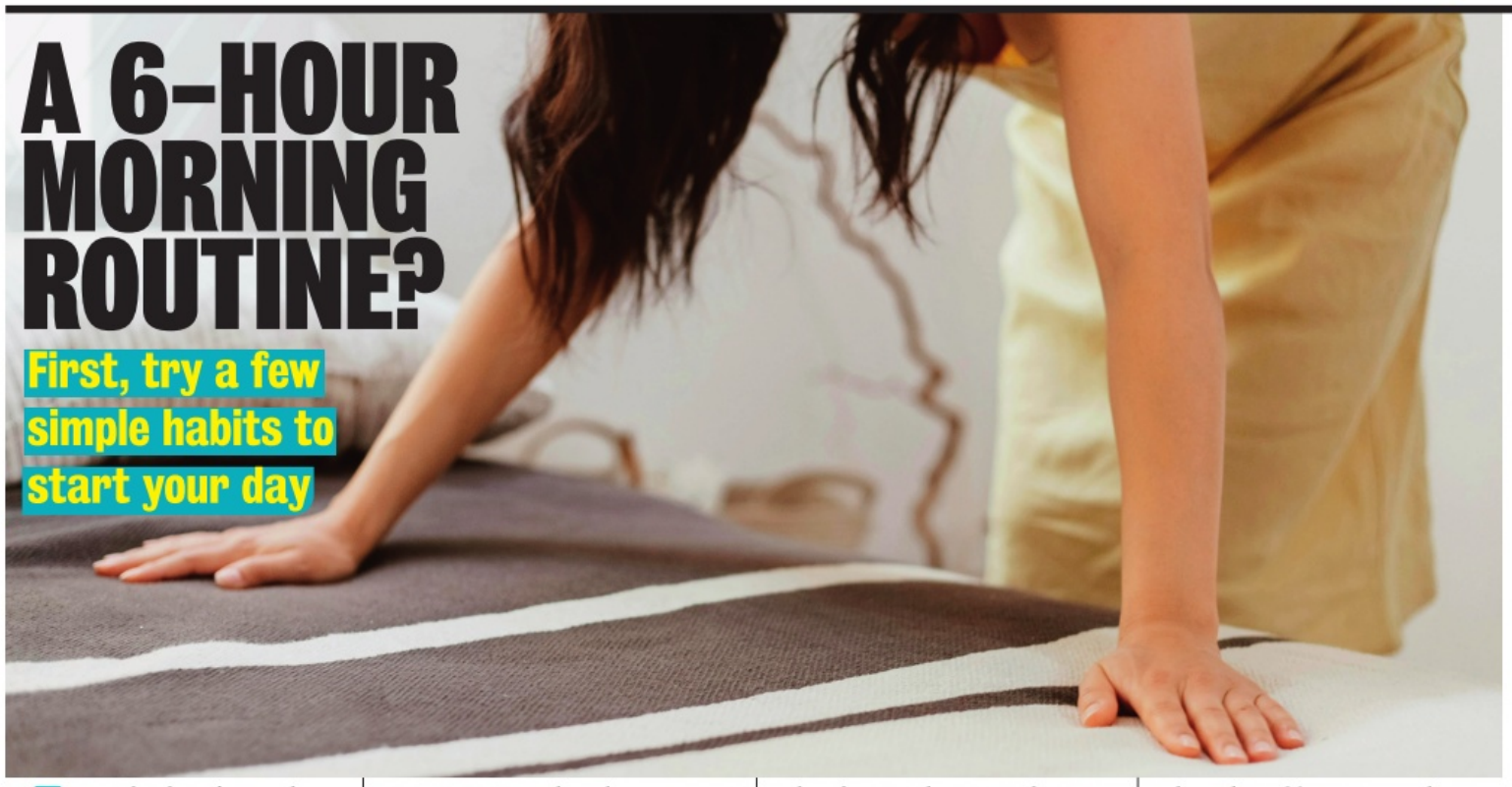
A 6-HOUR MORNING ROUTINE?

First, try a few simple habits to start your day



A viral video of a social media influencer's five-hour morning routine has gotten people talking about how best to start your day

Starting with brushing his teeth before 4 am, influencer Ashton Hall says he also swims, meditates, journals, rubs his face with banana peel, lifts weights, submerges his face in ice water and accomplishes much more every day before breakfast around 9:30.

A video of his morning routine has racked up millions of views on social media, while sparking reactions that range from disbelief to awe. It also jumpstarted the conversation online about how best to start the day, even if a six-hour regimen is ambitious to say the least.

Don't worry, said Kamalyn Kaur, a psychotherapist in Cheshire, England. You don't need to start your day with dozens of activities to improve it. But she said it is a good idea to reevaluate how you get going because setting up a relaxed, structured morning will pay dividends for your energy and mood.

"It just sets the tone for the rest of your day," said Kaur, an anxiety expert who advises new clients to start by reevaluating how they spend the morning. "If you set yourself up and you start your day properly, you start off feeling good, you feel organized."

As a professor of workplace psychology at The University of Oklahoma, Shawn McClean has spent years studying how work life is influenced by the rest of your life.

He said accomplishing tasks in the same order every morning is helpful because people have limited mental bandwidth before they have to recharge. The brain subconsciously reserves resources for tasks that require higher-level thinking, so routines are a type of mental shortcut.

"We're cognitive misers," McClean said. "We don't like to use our mental energy on things that aren't important."

His research has found that employees perform better and are more calm throughout the day when they complete their morning regimen uninterrupted. Conversely, employees with disruptive mornings report higher levels of mental depletion late in the day.

"When it comes to routine disruptions, it throws off your whole day," he said on a day when he was playing catch-up after having forgotten about his daughter's show-and-tell. "You get to work and you realise you didn't brush your teeth."

Most people already have some kind of routine in place, but few consciously decided on it before it became automatic, McLean said.

It's hard to define what a good routine is, and there is no formula that is best for everyone.

"It's going to be idiosyncratic to each person," McLean said. "It's what helps them function. Now, can we have destructive routines? Yes."

Rushing around in the morning to shower, eat and get out the door just on time is an example of a destructive morning routine, Kaur said. The stress of a rushed morning produces extra cortisol, which is a necessary hormone that helps regulate the circadian rhythm, she said. It's what naturally wakes you up and makes you alert in the morning.

Too much cortisol in the bloodstream, however, creates a feeling of restlessness and anxiety that can be similar to drinking coffee on an empty stomach, Kaur said.

People who often have hectic mornings should consider setting their alarm 30 minutes earlier — and resist the urge to hit the snooze button, Kaur said. For many people, snoozed sleep is disrupted sleep that might leave you more groggy.

Kaur recommends adding at least two or three quick activities to your morning that have been shown to improve mood — starting with making your bed. Research shows that clutter foments anxiety, and completing a task first thing in the morning promotes the secretion of the feel-good hormone dopamine, she said. Next, have a glass of water. If you've gotten a full night's sleep, you'll likely be slightly dehydrated after not consuming liquids for eight hours. And try delaying caffeine until after eating to avoid being jittery.

At some point within the first hour of waking up, expose yourself to natural light, preferably by taking a quick walk, Kaur said. Even if it's cloudy, daylight is another trigger for the circadian rhythm that promotes alertness first thing in the morning.

"These habits are important," she said. "It gives you the optimum chance and the optimum conditions to function better throughout the rest of your day." **— AP**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Groundbreaking study reveals how our brain learns

Neurobiologists using cutting-edge visualisation techniques have revealed how changes across our synapses and neurons unfold.

The findings depict how information is processed in our brain's circuitry, offering insights for neurological disorders and brain-like AI systems.

How do we learn something new? How do tasks at a new job, lyrics to the latest hit song or directions to a friend's house become encoded in our brains?

The broad answer is that our brains undergo adaptations to accommodate new information. To follow a new behaviour or retain newly introduced information, the brain's circuitry changes.

Such modifications are orchestrated across trillions of synapses -- the connections between individual nerve cells, called neurons -- where brain communication takes place.

In an intricately coordinated process, new information causes certain synapses to get stronger with new data while others grow weaker. Neuroscientists who have closely studied these alterations, known as "synaptic plasticity," have identified numerous molecular processes causing such plasticity.

Yet an understanding of the "rules" selecting which synapses undergo this process remained unknown, a mystery that ultimately dictates how learned information is captured in the brain.

University of California, San Diego neurobiologists William "Jake" Wright, Nathan Hedrick and Takaki Komiyama have now uncovered key details about this process.

As published April 17 in the journal Science, the researchers used a cutting-edge brain visualisation methodology, including two-photon imaging, to zoom into the brain activity of mice and track the activities of synapses and neuron cells during learning activities.

With the ability to see individual synapses like never before, the new images revealed that neurons don't follow one set of rules during episodes of learning, as had been assumed under conventional thinking.

Rather, the data revealed that individual neurons follow multiple rules, with synapses in different regions following different rules. These new findings stand to aid advancements in many areas, from brain and behaviour disorders to artificial intelligence.

"When people talk about synaptic plasticity, it's typically regarded as uniform within the brain," said Wright, a postdoctoral scholar in the School of Biological Sciences and first author of the study. **—ANI**

All you need to know about...

5 stages of grief

Denial
The "Nah, this can't be happening to me!" stage. We don't mean to be coming at you, but it's like trying to convince yourself that you can totally pull off bangs – when you know deep down it's a bad idea. Fast forward an hour, you find yourself in the bathroom, the universe quietly amused, offering you a tissue.

Anger
Next up is anger, where any and everyone in your life becomes a target for your wrath. From cursing the universe for a traffic jam on the way to work to smacking a malfunctioning coffee maker, just because – it's all about that fiery dragon within you just waiting to make an appearance.

Bargaining
If you've ever caught yourself murmuring the phrase, "Dear God, if you just intervene, I swear I'll [insert grandiose promise here]," then congratulations, you've just entered the bargaining stage of grief. Born from the unsettling sensation of losing control on the reins of life, bargaining is the art of attempting to sidestep grief through a flurry of negotiations.

Depression
Curling up in a blanket fort. Drowning your sorrows in a sea of ice cream and tear-stained tissues. Binge-watching Netflix till the end of time. This one is the most understandable stage when it comes to grieving and the only way to get over it is to get through it.

Acceptance
Ah, we finally arrive at the last stop on this emotional merry-go-round! You come to terms with the hand life as dealt you, often even realising that, hey, maybe it wasn't so bad after all. Spoiler alert: 'Just say LOL and move on' has its own power. **—Femina**

Denotification: SC defers verdict

The Supreme Court on Monday deferred its verdict over a plea filed by former Karnataka CM and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader BS Yediyurappa, seeking quashing of a corruption case in connection with 2011 land denotification.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra ordered the matter to be tagged along with another case, which has been referred to a larger bench of the top court.

The bench was set to pronounce its judgement today after having reserved the same. However, noting that there is another case being reviewed by a larger bench of the top court that involves similar legal issues, this bench deemed it appropriate to tag the present case along with the case already under review.

The case pertained to allegations of corruption against Yediyurappa and others in connection with the 2011 denotification of certain land allotments that had caused losses to the state exchequer.

The top court had heard the matter extensively from both sides. The issue over which most of the discussions took place during the various hearings pertained to whether a government sanction is required as per the Prevention of Corruption Act after a magistrate had ordered a probe under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). **ANI**

Community must be in same category for educational & job quota: HC

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a community or caste must be classified under the same category for both educational and employment reservations, and cannot be placed in separate groups.

The court emphasised that if a community is deemed socially and educationally backward, it cannot logically be considered adequately represented in state services.

"Needless to say that for a person to be engaged in services under the State, such a person has to be educated and possess the requisite educational qualifications. If a class or community is socially and educationally backward for purposes of education, then the question of such socially and educationally backward classes being adequately represented in the services under the State would not arise," the court stated.

These observations were made by Justice Suraj Govindaraj whilst hearing a petition from V. Sumitra, a Mysuru-based government primary school teacher from the Balajiga/Banajiga community.

The petitioner challenged the revocation of her 1996 caste certificate, which was cancelled because she had claimed Group-B OBC status when her community was listed under Group-D for employment. She maintained that she was unaware of the dual classification for educational and employment purposes.

The court noted that the Constitution's framers first introduced Article 15(4) for educational institution reservations for socially and educationally backward classes, followed by Article 16(4) for employment reservations.

The court declared that the different classification of the Balajiga/Banajiga community for employment and education purposes was discriminatory, illegal, void from the beginning and violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

The court instructed the government to reclassify the Balajiga/Banajiga community under Group-B instead of Group-D for Article 16(4), affirming that the petitioner's employment as a primary school teacher should continue under Group-B reservation. **BMB**

K'taka government orders immediate removal of tobacco ads from state buses

In response to public complaints, the Chief Minister's Office has issued a directive to remove all advertisements related to tobacco, cigarettes, and alcohol products from government-run buses. The instruction follows concerns raised by citizens regarding promotional materials on buses operated by state transport corporations, including KSRTC.

According to a statement released by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office, a notice has already been served to the concerned advertisers, and efforts are underway to completely eliminate such advertisements. The move was prompted after a user on social media platform X urged the government to take strict action against the display of tobacco and alcohol-related ads on State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) buses.

The matter was flagged by the Chief Minister's Office's Kundu Deficiency Division, prompting duty officers to alert the appropriate authorities.

In addition to ads for tobacco, cigarettes, and alcohol, promotional content for products like "Cool Lips" has also been removed. The Chief Traffic Manager of KSRTC confirmed that steps are being taken to ensure such advertisements are not displayed in the future, reinforcing the government's stance on promoting public health and safety. **BMB**

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I, Neha Jha R/o Flat D1404, Sumadhura Shikharam, Ashram Road Seegehalli, Near Seegehalli Gate Bus Stand, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560067 have changed my minor son's name from Avyan Khichariya to Avyan Jha.

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I, Infant Sam Christian MaheshKumar Residing at #403, HMR Purple Eilte, 9th main Street, Hennur, bangalore-43, declare that the names Infant Sam Christian and Infant Sam Christian Maheshkumar are that of the same person. I am henceforth known as Infant Sam Christian for all purposes.

I, PRAKASHA KORANAHALLI KOPPALU MAHALINGAPPA S/o Mahalingappa, R/at Flat No.107, 1st Floor, Honey Dew Apartments, Akshaya Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru- 560068 have changed my name to PRAKASH KORANAHALLI KOPPALU MAHALINGAPPA vide affidavit dated: 11/4/2025 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, SERVICE NO. 13920371A NK Lingala Ranga Reddy, UNIT: R/O AMC CENTRE AND SCHOOL LUCKNOW CANTT, UP PIN: 226002, have changed my Spouse name from HYMAVATHI DEVI to LINGALA HYMAVATHI DEVI, Residing at No.97, 6th Cross, Sainagar Phase-2, Near Samb ram College, Chikkabettahalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 & DOB 1956 to 15.06.1956, affidavit dt: 14.04.2025 Notary V.Anjanappa, Bengaluru.

I, NEHA, R/at No. 896, 10th A Cross, RBI Layout, J.P Nagar 7th Phase, Opp. Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to NEHA NADIGER, vide affidavit dt: 14.04.2025 before notary V. Anjanappa, B.lore.

WE, Anurag Awasthi, & Komal Tiwari R/a Wing 21-202, Shriram Summit, Gollahalli Main Road, Electronic city Phase-I, B'luru-560100, have changed our minor child name from Adhrit to Adhrit Awasthi for all purpose

LOST & FOUND

Loss of Document
Kamal. G S/o Govindappa, a resident of 6th Cross, Karanjikatte, Kolar city, I have a savings account number: **520101196083415** in **Union Bank of India, Kolar branch** and its **cheque Leafs number from 02071123 to 02071130,** Some signed cheque books dated: 16/04/2025 were accidentally lost while coming from home to Kolar city on a two-wheeler. In this regard, a case has been registered at Kolar police station as Lost Report Number: **1568694/2025.** If anyone finds the cheques, I request you to call the above address or 6363709776.

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Sewer woes: Old pipes, unauthorised connections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

clog manholes and lead to backflow into residential spaces. This blame game underscores a deeper urban challenge rooted in both systemic lapses and civic negligence.

As monsoon approaches, BWSSB has started cleaning the city's manholes and sewer lines. During this cleaning process, a significant number of sanitary pads and wet wipes have been found blocking the system. According to BWSSB sources, over 100 kilograms of sanitary napkins were recovered from the drains around Bagalgunte and Manjunathanagar last week alone.

A BWSSB official said, "Bengaluru's extensive 10,476 km sewer network, which includes over 3.5 lakh manholes, is under constant pressure due to the growing population and unregulated connections. Despite regular efforts by BWSSB staff to fix these issues, sewage continues to overflow from manholes, contaminating the surrounding environment. While the majority of waste consists of mixed soil and sand, sanitary pads make up nearly 20% of the blockages, which severely disrupt the drainage system."

BWSSB officials have been educating residents to dispose of such waste properly, urging them not to flush sanitary napkins and wet wipes into toilets. However, many people still disregard these warnings. The situation has worsened with the ongoing monsoon preparations, as older sewer lines, some over 40-50 years old, are difficult to repair. Unauthorised connections have also been contributing to the system's overload.

Rainfall 113% above average

Bengaluru has witnessed a strong start to the pre-monsoon season, with heavy showers continuing through Sunday. This has propelled the city's overall summer rainfall to an impressive 113% above the seasonal average, as reported by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD). Rain has been lashing various parts of the city for the past two weeks as part of the pre-monsoon spell.

The pre-monsoon season officially began on March 1 and runs through April 20. Typically, Bengaluru records 28.8 cm of rainfall during this period. However, this year, the city has already received 61.2 cm, registering a whopping 113% increase over the usual average.

According to the IMD, this spike underscores the unusual weather pattern and reinforces the impact of changing climatic conditions on urban monsoon trends.

Weather updates

Meanwhile, according to the IMD website, Bengaluru is expected to experience mostly dry weather from April 21 to 24, with warm conditions prevailing in both Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts.

However, isolated light to moderate showers with gusty winds (30–50 kmph) are forecast for parts of Coastal Karnataka and select districts of North and South Interior Karnataka, including Kodagu, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Gadag, Haveri, and Dharwad. On April 25, light rain or thunder showers with gusty winds (30–40 kmph) are likely in Bengaluru, with similar weather in nearby districts like Mysuru, Mandya, Davangere, Ballari, and Hassan.

The weekend (April 26–27) is expected to bring more widespread rainfall to Bengaluru, with light to moderate showers providing relief from the heat, while Coastal Karnataka and several South Interior districts, including Tumakuru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Vijayanagara, will also receive rain. North Interior Karnataka, however, will remain mostly dry, with isolated rainfall in Raichur, Gadag, and Kalaburagi.

Francis, a pope of many firsts

His papacy blended tradition with reform

Pope Francis, whose papacy blended tradition with pushes for inclusion and reform, died on April, 21, 2025 – Easter Monday – at the age of 88.

INFOCUS
POPE FRANCIS DIES

1 A Jesuit pope

Jorge Mario Bergoglio became a pope of many firsts: the first modern pope from outside Europe, the first whose papal name honors St. Francis of Assisi, and the first Jesuit – a Catholic religious order founded in the 16th century.

2 LGBTQ+ issues

Early on in his papacy, Francis famously told an interviewer, "If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?" Over the years, he has repeatedly called on Catholics to love LGBTQ+ people and spoken against laws that target them.

But "Francis' inclusiveness is not actually radical," explains Steven Millies, a scholar at the Catholic Theological Union. "His remarks generally correspond to what the church teaches and calls on Catholics to do," without changing doctrine – such as that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

3 Asking forgiveness

At times, Francis did something that was once unthinkable for a pope: He apologised.

He was not the first pontiff to do so, however. Pope John Paul II declared a sweeping "Day of Pardon" in 2000, asking forgiveness for the church's sins, and Pope Benedict XVI apologized to victims of sexual abuse. During Francis' papacy, he acknowledged the church's historic role in Canada's residential school system for Indigenous children and apologized for abuses in the system.

4 A church that listens

Many popes convene meetings of the Synod of Bishops to advise the Vatican on church governance. But under Francis, these gatherings took on special meaning.

The Synod on Synodality was a multiyear, worldwide conversation where Catholics could share concerns and challenges with local church leaders, informing the topics synod participants would eventually discuss in Rome. What's more, the synod's voting members included not only bishops but lay Catholics – a first for the church.

Pope Francis appears on the central lodge of St. Peter's Basilica to bestow the Urbi et Orbi (Latin for to the city and the world) blessing at the end of the Easter mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Sunday

5 Global dance

In 2024, University of Notre Dame professor David Lantigua had a cup of maté tea with some "porteños," as people from Buenos Aires are known. They shared a surprising take on the Argentine pope: "a theologian of the tango."

Francis does love the dance – in 2014, thousands of Catholics tangoed in St. Peter's Square to honor his birthday. But there's more to it, Lantigua explains. Francis' vision for the church was "based on relationships of trust and solidarity," like a pair of dance partners. And part of his task as pope was to "tango" with all the world's Catholics, carefully navigating culture wars and an increasingly diverse church.

Francis was "less interested in ivory tower theology than the faith of people on the streets," where Argentina's beloved dance was born.

—The Conversation

IPL 2025

'Chinnaswamy deserves some wins as well'

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Devdutt Padikkal said that he does not believe that pitch condition is the reason behind their three-match winless streak at M Chinnaswamy Stadium and believes it is time to script stories of success in their home den in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

Despite tilting at windmills on home turf, RCB has relished away from home, maintaining an unbeaten record with five victories on the trot, three of which have come while chasing. Virat Kohli, classified as "Chase Master" has slammed unbeaten fifties in each of them.

"To be honest, I think it's just a coincidence that our [five] wins have come away from home. But we have played some really good cricket throughout the tournament," Padikkal told reporters in the post-match press conference after their seven-wicket triumph over Punjab Kings.

"I feel we have really gelled well as a unit, and that shows, you know," he added. **ANI**

Sharma overtakes Kohli

Mumbai Indians (MI) opener Rohit Sharma surpassed Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) stalwart batter Virat Kohli on Sunday to become the player with the most 'Player of the Match' (POTM) awards in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) so far.

Rohit accomplished this milestone during the 38th clash of the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich league, where he played an unbeaten knock of 76 runs from 45 balls, including six maximums and four boundaries at a whopping strike rate of 168.89.

After playing this exceptional knock against the five-time champions, the right-hand batter went on to win his 20th Player of the Match award in his 264th IPL match. On the other hand, Kohli has 19 POTM awards in his 260 games so far.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) stand-in captain MS Dhoni and Warner are two others in the list by winning the award 18 times each. The top two players are former RCB players AB de Villiers (25) and Chris Gayle (22). **ANI**

Samson to miss clash with RCB

Rajasthan Royals (RR) will line up without their captain, Sanju Samson, for their upcoming away fixture against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Thursday in the ongoing 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

This will be the second successive fixture that Samson will miss for Rajasthan due to a side injury he sustained during the Royals' Super Over defeat to Delhi Capitals (DC). Rajasthan released a statement providing an update on Samson's current situation, confirming that he is undergoing rehabilitation and will not travel to Bengaluru.

"Samson is currently undergoing recovery and will remain at the team's home base (Jaipur) with select RR medical staff. As part of his ongoing rehab process, he will not travel to Bangalore for the upcoming match against RCB. The team management is monitoring his progress closely and will take a game-by-game approach regarding his return to action," the franchise said in a statement as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. **ANI**

CLOSERHOME

PM, Vance laud progress in trade ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting US Vice President JD Vance on Monday welcomed progress in the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement and efforts towards enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including energy, defence, strategic technologies.

PM Modi hosted the US Vice President, Second Lady Usha Vance and the couple's three children – Ewan, Vivek, and daughter Mirabel – at his Lok Kalyan Marg residence.

During their interaction, Prime Minister Modi recalled his successful visit to Washington D.C. in January and his discussions with US President Donald Trump. In February, during their previous meeting in February held on the sidelines of the AI Summit in Paris, Prime Minister Modi and Vance had discussed a range of issues, strengthening the strategic partnership between the two nations, during their meeting. On Monday, both leaders followed up on their last meeting and reviewed progress in the bilateral relations besides exchanging views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest. **IANS**

Tahawwur Rana moves court to talk to family

The Delhi Patiala House Court has issued a notice to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in response to an application filed by Tahawwur Rana, seeking permission to communicate with his family. The court will hear arguments on the matter on April 23.

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-Canadian accused of terrorism, is a former military doctor with a history of alleged involvement in terror-related activities. He was recently extradited from the United States to India.

Recently, while granting Rana's remand to the NIA, the court acknowledged evidence suggesting a wide-ranging terror conspiracy spanning multiple cities, with potential targets extending beyond India's borders.

Emphasising the gravity of the allegations, the court underscored their direct implications for national security and stressed the necessity of confronting the accused with witnesses, forensic evidence, and seized documents, particularly those tied to reconnaissance operations. **ANI**

Indian govt sued over e-waste policy

South Korea's LG and Samsung have sued India's government to quash a policy which increases payouts to electronic-waste recyclers, court filings show, joining other major companies in contesting the country's environmental rules citing business impact.

The lawsuits, set to be heard on Tuesday with other challenges, mark an escalation of a standoff involving foreign companies' and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over its stance towards waste management practices. LG and Samsung did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment. India's Environment Ministry also did not respond.

India is the third-biggest e-waste generator behind China and the U.S., but the government says only 43% of the country's e-waste last year was recycled and at least 80% of the sector comprises informal scrap dealers. Daikin, India's Havells and Tata's Voltas have already sued Modi's administration. **Reuters**

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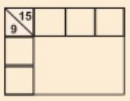
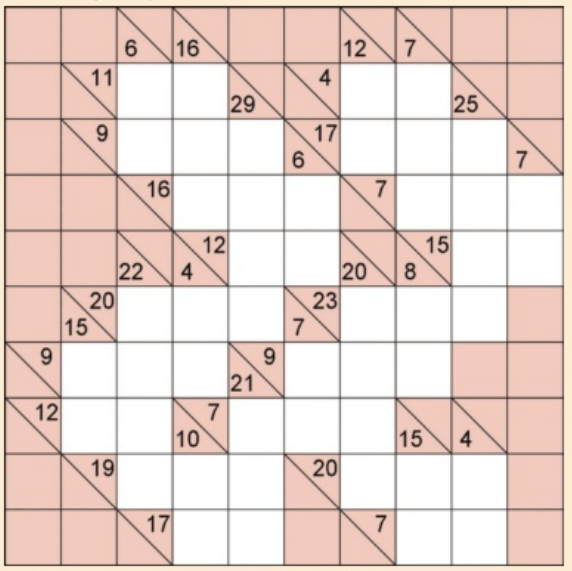
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

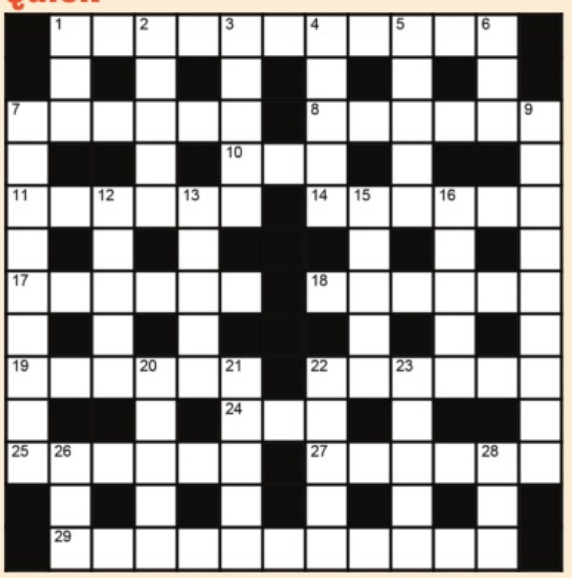


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Ill-timed; unsuitable (11)
7 Say it again (6)
8 Practice (6)
10 A foot division (3)
11 Calls on? (6)
14 Fashions (6)
17 Public officer (6)
18 Greedy money-lender (6)
19 Sacredly obscure or secret (6)
22 Remain aloft? (4,2)
24 Powdery residue (3)
25 Decorated (4,2)
27 Warm, hooded waterproof jacket (6)
29 Some inconsistency in statement of facts or claims (11)

DOWN

1 Frozen water (3)
2 Old manuscript marks (5)
3 Golf strokes (5)
4 Human groups (5)
5 Recant (5)
6 Green prefix? (3)
7 Stark ___ ___: utterly insane? (6,3)
9 Popular dessert in Karnataka and the rest of the country as well (6,3)
12 Fills to satisfaction (5)
13 Ankle bones (5)
15 On which to see the cricket match live? (2,3)
16 Weighty (5)
20 Adolescents (5)
21 Escapade (5)
22 Quick-witted (5)
23 Fruit of the oak (5)
26 Peculiar or strange (3)
28 Alcott heroine of "Little Women" (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS S

UQZDRYC ZG GRTTCGG ZU FC DCQYH UYIK ZO.

Linemaro

Five seconds: That's how long it took for me to fall in love with you

Mindchow

Acquaintance: A degree of friendship called slight when its object is poor or obscure, and intimate when he is rich or famous

Joke of the day

A cucumber should be well sliced, and dressed with pepper and vinegar, and then thrown out, as good for nothing

Loop

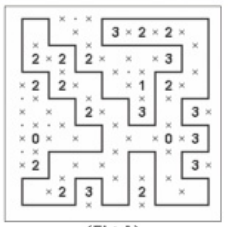
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

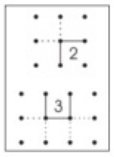
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

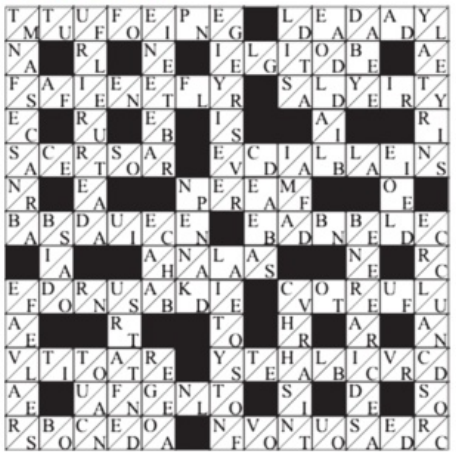


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

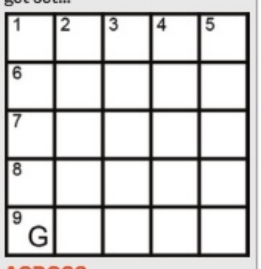
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

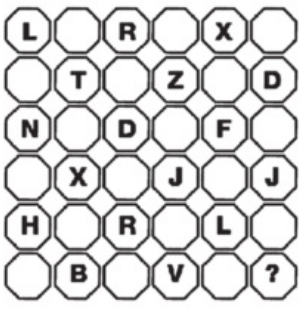
1 Sophs; 6 Ape up; 7 Meant; 8 On air; 9 Cager

DOWN

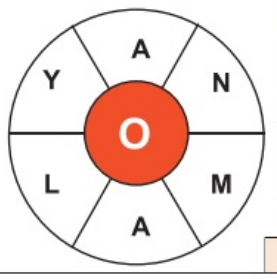
1 Pangs; 2 Or hum; 3 Or ape; 4 In Cap; 5 Tease

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9								
4		5	9		1			
7	8	3				1		2
8		9	2				4	
			5		8			
	3				7	6		1
2		4				7	1	6
			1		5	4		8
								3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

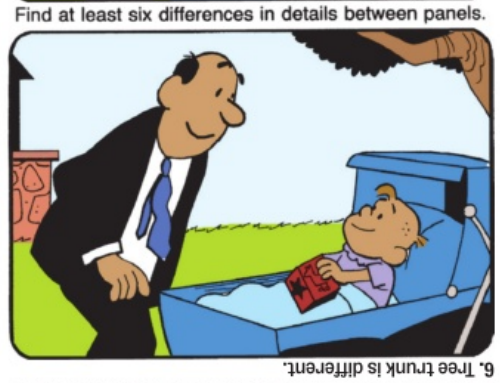
Easy = 7
1 3 3 8

Medium = 13
2 3 4 5

Hard = 7
2 3 5 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



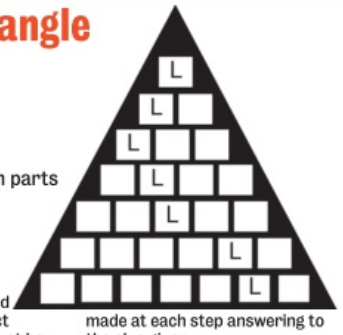
Differences: 1. Block is different. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Wall is shorter. 5. Pillow is smaller. 6. Tree trunk is different.

Riddler

Everyone needs this, it's great with an 'r' on the end but you're sad when the first letter goes away

Alpha triangle

1 XXV + XXV
2 ___behold
3 Zodiac lion
4 Ice mass
5 Criminal
6 Caress
7 Comprising of ten parts

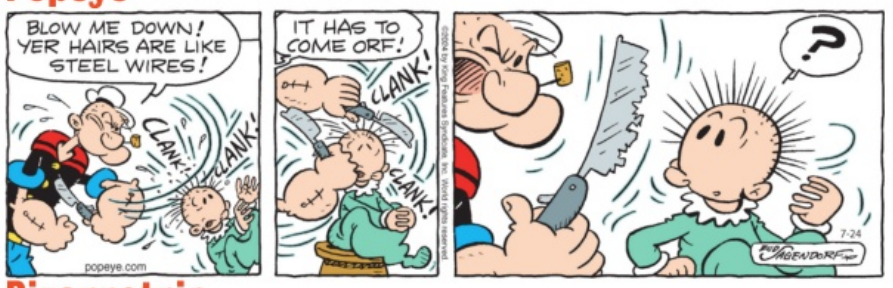


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

If he sneezes on you, immortality comes with an allergy attack you can never shake.
Wayno & Piraro 1-14-25
BIZARRO.COM
NOSFERACHOO

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

EVERYONE NEEDS A BUDDY WHILE AT THE AQUARIUM! WE'LL MEET BACK HERE IN ONE HOUR.
HOW CAN THE AQUARIUM BE SURE KIDS DON'T LEAVE THE PREMISES?
PROBABLY THE KID DETECTORS AT THE FRONT.
RED ALERT!
KID ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE!!
I SEE.

Crankshaft

SHOOT! I DROPPED MY CAR KEYS ON THE FLOOR.
KLINK!
OH, WELL...
1-14
I'LL GET THEM NEXT MONTH WHEN MY BACK FEELS BETTER!
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings warmth and connection through a family gathering. You may rekindle valuable relationships that benefit you in the near future. Those in glamour, arts, fashion, film, or media may explore new ideas professionally. Students will perform well, and love birds will enjoy joyful moments together.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Work may keep you mentally occupied and somewhat drained today. Despite the exhaustion, you might establish connections overseas that could prove valuable. Be cautious with investments. Career-wise, there's a chance of a promotion.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Things are stabilizing today. Past investments may yield gains, and recognition for your hard work could be on the way. Projects that were stalled might resume. A peaceful spiritual trip could be on your mind, and you may feel inclined to donate to a religious or charitable cause.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The moon's position may affect your health today. Avoid risky investments or business ventures, as losses are likely. Stay away from controversies—they could drag you down. Focus on self-care and avoid making any major financial moves today.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You're likely to excel at work today. Your boss may trust you with new responsibilities or even a promotion. Disputes with partners could resolve. You might lend money toward buying assets, and your children's health should improve. Consider investments for their future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Moon's blessings bring positivity. Love is in the air—singles may find a match. Professionally, things look promising with support from friends and colleagues. Investments in gems and jewelry might bring good returns. Keep an eye on elders' health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Auspicious planetary influences bring joy and a boost in social reputation. You may feel intellectually curious and inclined to explore deep or meaningful subjects. It's a good day to nurture your inner growth and wisdom.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The day might start off slow or negative, but things will turn around by evening. New connections at work may help you restructure your business plans. Just be cautious—always read documents thoroughly before signing anything.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessings help clear your indecision. Children's health is improving, and colleagues may support you, leading to project success. There may be a financial incentive coming your way. Those involved in dairy, water-related fields, grains, homemaking, or culture may experience growth.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may consider relocating or changing jobs today. Take time to reflect carefully before making such decisions. While there's peace of mind, your child's health might cause concern. Avoid speculative investments. Lovebirds should be patient before making big relationship decisions.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Patience and calmness define your day. Meditation can enhance focus, helping you complete projects ahead of schedule. Your subordinates will likely be supportive. Work-related short trips may arise, and an influential person could help expand your network.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may attend family gatherings or social events today, where your polite nature enhances your reputation. You might shop for decorative or household items, boosting your social status. Expect good news from a relative—something worth celebrating.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6*3+6*2-0
18+12= 30

BULL'S EYE
ANOMALY, loam, loamy, loan, moan, only

FAST FIVE

S	H	O	P	S
P	U	P	A	E
A	M	E	N	T
N	O	R	I	A
G	R	A	C	E

RIDDLER
Love, lover, over

QUOTE UNCODE
Failure is success if we learn from it.

STRIKE OUT

M	U	F	F	I	N	G		D	A	D	D	Y		
A		L		N		E	L	I	D	E		E		
C		R		E		S		I		I		I		
S	A	I	N	T	L	Y		A	L	E	R	T		
A		N		E		S		I		D		E		
C	T	O	R		E	D	I	B	L	E	S			
R		E		P	R	A	M			E				
A	B	D	U	C	E		B	A	B	B	L	E		
F	O	R	S	A	K	E		C	O	R	F	U		
E		T		H		R		A		T		A		
I		H	A	L	S			E		C		
A	B	D	U	C	E		B	A	B	B	L	E		
R		E		P	R	A	M			E				
A	C	T	O	R		E	D	I	B	L	E	S		
C		R		E		S		I		I		I		
S	A	I	N	T	L	Y		A	L	E	R	T		
A		N		E	L	I	D	E		D		E		
M	U	F	F	I	N	G		D	A	D	D	Y		

QUICK

I	N	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	E				
D		B		U		A		N		C				
D		N		E		R		R		M				
D	O	N	E	U	P		A	N	O	R	A	K		
A		E		A	S	H		C		A				
M	Y	S	T	I	C		S	T	A	Y	U	P		
G		E		S		E		D		E				
N	O	T	A	R	Y		U	S	U	R	E	R		
I		A		A		V		A		O				
V	I	S	I	T	S		S	T	Y	L	E	S		
A		L		T	O	E		A		Y				
R	E	P	E	A	T		C	U	S	T	O	M		
C		B		U		A		N		C				
D	I	S	C	R	E	P	A	N	C	Y				

MENSA PUZZLE
P. Starting in the top left corner and moving clockwise in a spiral towards the centre, letters follow the alphabetic sequence, skipping 5 letters at a time, written in alternate squares of the diagram.

SUDOKU

6	1	8	7	4	2	9	5	3
3	9	7	1	6	5	4	2	8
2	5	4	3	8	9	7	1	6
5	3	2	4	9	7	6	8	1
1	4	6	5	3	8	2	7	9
8	7	9	2	1	6	3	4	5
7	6	3	9	5	4	1	9	2
4	6	5	9	2	1	8	3	7
9	2	1	8	7	3	5	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, O, Leo, Floe, Felon, Fondle, Tenfold.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 3 − 1 − 3 = 7
Medium
3 × 5 − 4 + 2 = 13
Hard
7 − 3 − 2 + 5 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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2 Yrs. Classroom Programme
MH TOPPER

AIR 20 — **Ayush Singhal**
APPL NO: 250310009213
2 Yr. Classroom Programme
RJ TOPPER

HAT TRICK OF 300/300 MARKS
2023 - 1
2024 - 8
2025 - 1

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- 29 Ranks in Top 100
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All India Open Category Top Ranks

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